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The first mid-term examinations of the one-year course took place just before [REDACTED]. The results were announced two weeks later, simultaneously with those of the examinations for the two-year course. An analysis of the results prepared by the deputy principal of the Academy, Heinz Abraham, stressed that as a result of the composition of the student body and new training methods the one year course showed much greater scholastic accomplishment than the two-year course. The top level of the one-year class was represented by Hans Vieillard, Erika Assmus, Walter Kuehn, Heinz Juch, Ilse Wittwika, Horst Willem and Hanni Gloeckner. The grading, while not taking into account the student's oral participation in seminars, was based on written and oral tests of the student's knowledge of the history of the CPSU(b).

For the first time in the history of the Academy all so-called Grundzuege (basic principles) (so named by Stalin who sub-divides the science of dialectics into four and the philosophy of materialism into three basic principles) were treated separately. One of the lecturers on philosophy is Kurt Hager, who heads the Party schooling section of the Party Directorate (Parteivorstand). In one of his lectures he dwelt on the reorganization of Party schooling. Hager belonged to the group which visited the USSR in February/March in order to study Soviet propaganda methods. Other lecturers were Victor Stern and (fnu) Becker. Their lectures dealt with the basic principles of dialectical materialism, and subsequent seminars focused upon the practical application of Marxian philosophy to the current situation, with topical allusions to the National Front, Western Germany, the USSR and international relations. This phase was followed by lectures dealing with historical materialism and related subjects. Victor Stern lectured on "The Role of the Masses", and "Personalities and Ideas in History". Notable was the fact that he placed special emphasis on the role played by personalities in history which - in rebuttal to allegations made by the foes of Marxism - historical materialism does not deny.

3. The second series of lectures given under the auspices of the philosophy department was devoted to a condemnation of the ideologies of American Imperialism and Social Democracy. The fight against objectivism, cosmopolitanism, pragmatism, personalism and existentialism was stressed. One lecture was devoted to "American Literature in the Service of Politics".

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Lecturers were Ernst Hoffmann, the deputy chairman of the SED Landesverband Gross Berlin, Kurt Hager, and Victor Stern. In expanding the themes presented, the following literature was required reading: Der Marxismus der Gegenwart und seine Kritiker by Fred Oelssner, Kultur in einer anderen Welt by Jerome, and Ist der Marxismus ueberholt? by Leluec. Source material used by the lecturers included Das Sozialistische Jahrhundert, the organ of Social Democratic theory. One of the seminars treating of cosmopolitanism, personalism and pragmatism developed the theme that it could not be considered a legitimate task to enter into theoretical debate with hostile ideologies; all that was needed was to unmask them, and to eliminate their influence upon the masses. One of the problems under debate was whether it was permissible to draw distinctions between American imperialism, Social Democracy and Trotskyism and if so what kind of differences exist. This topic led Goetz Scharf, one of the Academy teachers, into serious trouble. He was severely criticized by the students for having stated that such differences in fact do exist, that the leaders of Social Democracy had to be self-consistent in contradistinction to Trotskyists who cannot and do not have to be self-consistent. Scharf will be required to practice self-criticism for harboring this erroneous view. A written report was sent by the students to the Party secretariat relating to this incident. The matter is generally considered serious inasmuch as Scharf had been forced to quit the Academy [redacted] having then shared the same room with Wolfgang Leonhard who defected to Tito. Since he could not be convicted of any deviations at the time, he was readmitted on [redacted]

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4. An interesting lecture on "Communist Morale" was given by a visiting speaker named (fnu) Klein. Klein, a former minister of the church, had been a prisoner of war in the USSR, was re-indoctrinated and, after his return, was assigned to the Academy as a teacher. He belongs to the new generation of Marxian theoreticians and is currently writing his doctor's thesis on the subject of his lecture. [redacted] the philosophy department completed its series of lectures. There were two review courses, the first after completion of the seven basic principles without examination, the second after completion of the lectures, followed by written tests in which the students were required to answer two questions: "What is the Essence of Proletarian Morale?" and "Why Does Cosmopolitanism Constitute a Danger?"

5. During the month of May numerous extra-curricular activities subjected students to an inordinately exacting program. In preparation for the third Party Conference all documents referred to by the Party Directorate as well as the basic resolution and the draft of a revised statute are to be studied. Since the days are fully occupied only the evenings and weekends can be set aside for this. [redacted] the DDR Ambassador to China, Hans Koenig, lectured on the Peoples' Republic of China. Koenig, who had been an active participant in the Chinese Civil War, was chief editor of the Saechsische Volksstimme before entering the diplomatic service. [redacted] students attending the one year study course visited the Lenin exhibition in Berlin. [redacted] Walter Victor, who had lived in the United States for seven years, lectured on conditions in the United States before a local gathering in Klein-Machnow under the auspices of the Kulturbund.

6. Fred Oelssner, whose relation to the Academy is a very close one although he does not belong to the teaching staff, delivered the official address titled "Lenin and the German Labor Movement" in commemoration of Lenin's 80th birthday [redacted]. It dealt less with Lenin than with problems of practical Party work. From his remarks the following significant information could be gleaned:

The new Party statute to be adopted at the Party conference of the SED in July 1950 has been closely modelled after the statute of the CPSU(b). It will, among other things, stipulate that all Party members are under an obligation to enhance their ideological proficiency through study. It is believed that all attempts at evading attendance at Party schools will henceforth be judged as violations of Party discipline. In practical terms even correspondence courses and self-education will become obligatory and subject to stringent Party supervision and scrutiny. Oelssner pointed out that the SED leadership has

officially designated the ideological training of Party members and the population as a whole as "a principal link in the chain" of the National Front, a term whose meaning Lenin developed in his treatise on Strategy and Tactics of the Bolshevik Party.

- 25X1X 7. [REDACTED] Paul Verner lectured on the organizational work within the CPUSSR(b) and rendered a detailed account of the visit of a German delegation to the USSR for the purpose of studying this subject on the spot and subsequently to analyze their findings for application in Eastern Germany. [REDACTED] (fnu) Schneidewind, a member of the Party schooling section of the Party Directorate, lectured on "The USSR on the Road to Communism." On 1 May the entire Academy took part in the official celebrations in Berlin. They had been specially assigned the task of embellishing the demonstration by means of shouts in chorus and well-timed roars of applause.
- 25X1X 8. [REDACTED] Alexander (Sascha) Gruettner and Margot Taut, both Party teachers at the Academy with the philosophy department, were relieved of their assignments in order to accept appointments on the staff of the German Embassy at Peking. Gruettner has spent many years in the USSR, speaks fluent Russian and is considered a good teacher. Another instructor at the Academy, (fnu) Puls, has left the Academy and joined the editorial staff of Die Einheit, a monthly publication giving the official SED interpretation of Marxism/Leninism. His job is to check contributions to insure that they are in line with the Party doctrine. [REDACTED] the principal of the Academy, Rudolf Lindau, was released from the Karlsruh Hospital. He is scheduled to go to the USSR for recuperation. Professor Jessipov, the most famous pedagogue of the Soviet Union, visited the Academy [REDACTED] For one hour he answered prepared questions of little consequence to the students. In his company was Paetzold, the secretary of the German-Soviet Friendship League in Brandenburg. Horst Syndermann, a member of the Party Directorate (Parteivorstand) is believed to be playing an increasingly important role in the SED. He has of late published numerous articles in the Neue Weg and in the March and April issues of the Neues Deutschland. Syndermann is the brother-in-law of Rudolf Lindau. Victor Stern, head of the philosophy department, speaks fluent Russian and, according to statements made by students of the Academy, enjoys prominence not only within the SED but also with other European Communist Parties. It is said that he played an important role in the purge of the Bulgarian and Rumanian Communist Parties and that he took part in a Party conference of the CP of the Czechoslovak Republic in 1949. He is alleged to have spent many years in the USSR. Party Secretary of the Staff of the Academy, Hans Mickin, was hospitalized at Laster. His place has been taken temporarily by Ernst Mehlis, the deputy Party Secretary of the Staff. Beginning [REDACTED] a Press Department will be added to the Academy headed by one (fnu) Beiling, formerly chief editor of the SED organ of Saxony-Anhalt, Freiheit.
- 25X1X 9. The secretary of the German-Soviet League of Friendship in Land Brandenburg, (fnu) Paetzold, is being considered for a position on the diplomatic staff of the DDR Embassy in Bucharest. He purportedly views this prospect with little enthusiasm and is said to have taken steps to remain in Germany. He is known to be a typical careerist. As a result of his close connections with the Russians he has failed to maintain sufficiently close connections with the Party. This notwithstanding, Paetzold, who is believed to be a Soviet informant, has worked closely with the Culture and Education Division of the Landesverband Potsdam and with its Kader section. Paetzold is a pre-1933 member of the KPD, by profession a theater painter and decorator. According to his claim he was entrusted prior to 1933, by the Party, with special missions. After 1945 he was placed in charge of training in a district (Kreisparteschulleiter), attended the nine month study course of the Karl Marx Academy and eventually became secretary of the society. His wife is also a Party member. She taught at a district Party school, temporarily attended a school for judges and is currently co-responsible for the schooling system within the Peoples' Police in Brandenburg.

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10. It is believed that Hella Scharlemann, formerly first district secretary of the German-Soviet Friendship League in Potsdam, now serves with the DDR Embassy in Warsaw. Functionaries who know her well claim to have seen her likeness in a newsreel showing Ambassador Friedrich Wolff handing his letter of accreditation to the Polish President. Scharlemann is known to be a close friend of the chief librarian of the Landesverband Brandenburg, Lotte Polewka, and to have maintained close relations with one Globig, a referent of the Landesparteikontrollkommission, Potsdam. Scharlemann, Polewka and Globig spent a long time in the USSR where they worked together. Scharlemann is strongly attached to the Russians. Her intelligence is described as "below average." She is forty years old and single.*

11. Several days before the end of the nine-month term, the assignment of graduates were made by the Kader section of the Party Directorate in consultation with deputies from the Laender. Appointments are subject to confirmation by the secretariat of either the Party Directorate or the Politburo. On orders of the latter the assignments as determined by the Kader section underwent a significant change. Some of the students originally slated for appointments with mass organizations and state administrations were transferred to the central Party apparatus in addition to the majority of graduates assigned to such posts. A comparatively high percentage went into press work, in particular to join the economic branch of the editorial staff of Land Party organs. The following considerations in the order listed were determining factors in the choice of assignments:

- a. Solidarity with the Party and class consciousness;
- b. Professional suitability;
- c. Theoretical proficiency.

Those most proficient in the theoretical field were generally placed with the Press and propaganda apparatus of the Party or given appointments as Party teachers. During the nine-month course each student had been given an interim rating. At the end of the course each student turned in a written assessment of himself to the Party group of his seminar containing his own recommendation for a specific assignment. The Party group in turn passed on the self-assessment, added or requested the omission or alteration of certain sentences, and made its own recommendations as to the student's future assignment. A similar assessment was also prepared by the instructors.

12. [REDACTED] upon the completion of the nine-month course, grades were announced at a special meeting attended only by members of that course. For the first time five grades, one by each faculty, were given, instead of the single grade which characterized the earlier marking system. The average was satisfactory. The majority were graded as very good and good. The performance of two students only was deemed unsatisfactory by one faculty. Broken down by regional origin, students who came from Berlin and Saxony were the best, those from Mecklenburg the worst.

The best individual record belonged to Gertrud Keller (Saxony), assigned to work on the editorial staff of Einheit, Heinz Brand (Berlin) in charge of the Party schooling section of the Landesverband Gross Berlin and Herbert Gessner, formerly radio commentator with Radio Berlin where he has returned to a more responsible position. Close to the top bracket were, among others, Rudi Wetzel (Berlin) now with the Press section of the Party Directorate and Anni Schubert (Brandenburg) assigned to the editorial staff of Neues Deutschland.

A good rating was given to the following: Guenther Roeser (Saxony-Anhalt) formerly in charge of the SED District Zeitz, now with the editorial staff of Neues Deutschland, Hilde Pank (Brandenburg), deputy head of the mass agitation section of Landesverband Brandenburg, Herbert Kienast (Brandenburg), formerly in charge of Party schooling with SED District Headquarters in Potsdam and now deputy chief of the Party schooling section of Landesverband Brandenburg, Gretel Bergmann (Berlin), previously a referent in one of the DDR ministries and now with the Party in Berlin in an unknown capacity, Lilo Sager (Brandenburg), district Party school teacher, now referent for district Party schools in the Party schooling section of Landesverband Brandenburg, Jupp Dorst (Brandenburg), formerly secretary for youth affairs and now a referent in the mass agitation section of Landesverband Brandenburg, (fnu) Schellenberg (Saxony), Robert Siebert (Saxony-Anhalt), son of the Minister of the Interior of Saxony-Anhalt, (fnu) Casparius (Mecklenburg), formerly 1st District Party secretary of Ahlbeck on Usedom and now in charge of the state administration section of the Landesverband Mecklenburg.

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About 15 students attending the course came from Western Germany. They left Klein-Machnow [redacted] on a special bus. They had attended the course under assumed names in order to evade victimization and had been issued false credentials. Their first names, however, had not been changed and their surnames had been altered only slightly.

13. Commencement exercises were highlighted by the presence of Minister President Otto Grotewohl. In his entourage were Fritz Ebert, Hans Jendretzki, Horst Syndermann, Kurt Hager and Schneidewind. Grotewohl's speech was officially reported in the Party organ of the SED, Neues Deutschland.

The following points stood out: Grotewohl gave an account of the measures taken in order to assure a uniform slate for the October elections altogether different from that presented by Fred Oelssner only a few weeks before. Whereas Oelssner claimed that the proposal to institute a uniform slate had, of course, originated with the SED, Grotewohl declared that the trade unions had taken the initiative and that the bourgeois parties had "jubilantly" followed suit by emphatically supporting and underscoring the proposal. The SED, Grotewohl added sarcastically, finally had yielded to pressure and "in order to maintain peace" given its concurrence. Grotewohl's statements met with hilarious applause on the part of his listeners. Some among the students and teachers, however, felt that there was no reason for the Party to disavow its leading part in any form. Grotewohl also mentioned that the SED would take less than its share of 51% in the new government (i.e., the government formed on the basis of the October elections) for the following reasons: to take the wind out of the sails of counter-propagandistic claims that the SED had arrogated to itself more than its due share and because its power and strength should not be measured exclusively in terms of ministerial posts, but that it could be exerted in different ways. Again there was great applause.

In Neues Deutschland no mention was made of Grotewohl's statement that the share of publicly-owned enterprises in the industrial production of the DDR had risen from 40 to 65% and that the percentage would be even higher once the two year plan has been fulfilled.

14. The following list identifies 47 of the 99 students attending the one year course:

1. Artur Franke, Berlin
2. Hanni Glocckner, Saxony
3. Brigitte Czech, Saxony
4. Hans Gustav Schroeter, Berlin
5. Artur Hummich, Saxony
6. Ilse Wittwika, Saxony
7. Walter Mickin, Brandenburg
8. Franz Hoepfner, Mecklenburg (Functionary in Kultur und Erziehung, Landesverband Mecklenburg; son-in-law of Minister of the Interior Mollmann)
9. Erika Assmus, Brandenburg
10. Hans Hummel, Saxony
11. Grete Langner, Brandenburg
12. Ilse Pactzold, Brandenburg
13. Liselotte Guder, Saxony
14. Edith Fritze, Brandenburg (Instrukteur, Landesverband Brandenburg)
15. Jutta Miedemann, Saxony
16. Kaethe Holzmacher, Thuringia
17. Anneliese Runge, Mecklenburg
18. Ingrid Haupt, Saxony/Anhalt
19. Rudi Kacklotza, Saxony/Anhalt
20. Lotti Duecher, Mecklenburg
21. Hella Inglacz, Berlin (Jest)
22. Horst Benneckenstein, Thuringia
23. Ernst Delger, Saxony-Anhalt
24. Rudi Wetsengel, Saxony
25. Lotte Exleben, Berlin (Hans Jendretzki's former common law wife; has two children by him; on the editorial staff of Neues Deutschland)

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26. Paul Wessel, Berlin
27. Fritz Metzner, Saxony
28. Heinz Richter
29. Hermann Kraemer, Thuringia
30. Hans Vieillard, Brandenburg
31. Fritz Albrecht, Thuringia
32. Heinz Kube, Brandenburg
33. Heinz Dendig, Mecklenburg
34. Guenter Frost, Brandenburg
35. Franz Krippel, Brandenburg
36. Walter Kuehn, Saxony
37. Erich Baldauf, Saxony
38. Sepp Lobeck, Mecklenburg
39. (fnu) Bande, Berlin
40. Heinz Juch, Brandenburg
41. Wolfgang Hammer
42. Horst Willem, Berlin
43. Ursula Pohl, Saxony
44. Hans Hoffmann
45. Egon Poesel
46. Reinhard Fischer, Saxony
47. Hans Sardowski, Brandenburg

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* Comment: Appointments in the diplomatic service of the DDR are made in closest understanding with the Soviets and frequently on their direct recommendation. It appears from the actual choices made thus far that persons selected are those who maintain intimate contacts with the Russians, who at all times follow Soviet instructions and who can be depended upon to report to the Soviet authorities on the activities of their diplomatic mission.

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